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Care Experience

[A joint inspection of services for children and young people at risk of harm in Angus](#)

A joint inspection of services in the Angus community planning partnership by the Care Inspectorate in partnership with Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, has found clear strengths in ensuring children and young people at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. However, despite a range of services, the emotional and mental wellbeing needs of children and young people were not always being met timeously. The Care Inspectorate will request a joint action plan that clearly details how the partnership will make improvements in the key areas identified by inspectors. We will continue to offer support for improvement and monitor progress through our linking arrangements.



Care Experience

[Statement on Allinvale House, Airdrie](#)

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said: “An inspection has identified serious and significant concerns about the quality of care experienced by young people at Allinvale House, Airdrie. We understand this is a difficult and distressing time for young people, their families and staff at the service. However, our first priority is always the health and wellbeing of young people. Because of our concerns about the safety of young people we have issued an Improvement Notice to the service. This sets out the significant improvements that must be made, swiftly, so that the care experienced by young people is of a standard they have a right to expect. We are working closely with partners including relevant local authorities to ensure that young people experience appropriate care during this difficult time. Anyone with a concern can contact us on 0345 600 9527.”

[Children’s Reporter publishes closure report on the Promise](#)

The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published a closure report on the end of their Keeping the Promise Route Plan 2021- 2024. The report provides an overview of their improvement projects, reflects on some challenges and how these are being addressed, and also gives an outline of what is next for the organisation as they progress towards Keeping The Promise by 2030.

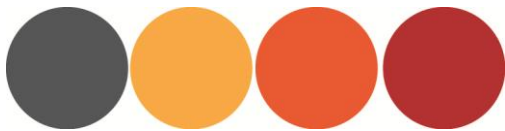
Child Protection

[Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to start Phase 9 of investigations](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has started hearing evidence relating to Phase 9 of its investigations on the provision of residential care in establishments for children and young people with long-term healthcare needs, additional support needs, and disabilities. Over the next three weeks their focus will be on healthcare settings – primarily those which provided for children with learning disabilities or mental health needs, and in late May the focus will move to other settings, including residential schools providing for children with additional support needs. Towards the end of the case study, later in the summer, they will hear evidence relative to residential schools which provided specialist residential care for deaf or visually impaired children. Reporting systems and the wide-ranging impact of abuse have been and continue to be aspects of SCAI’s investigations, as are staff recruitment, training, and organisational culture; which will also be explored.

[Survey of safeguarding professionals on ending physical punishment of children \(England\)](#)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has published the results of a survey of safeguarding professionals, including social workers, healthcare professionals, teachers and the police, which reportedly show that most think the law in England should be changed to end the physical



punishment of children. The NSPCC are calling for an amendment to the UK Government's Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill to end the physical punishment of children in England.

The [Children's Commissioners of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland](#) are also calling for an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill to remove the defence of 'reasonable punishment' that exists in English law and in the Children Act 2004, to ensure that all children across the UK have the right to the same legal protection from assault as adults.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Self-evaluation workshops for the early learning and childcare sector](#)

In February and March, the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland held engagement sessions for practitioners about the new Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. During these events, many participants told us they would like to know more about self-evaluation and how to implement this approach in services. Following on from these events, the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland would like to invite practitioners to our upcoming in-person self-evaluation workshops in Perth. These events are aimed at managers, practitioners, staff and childminders who work in the childcare sector.

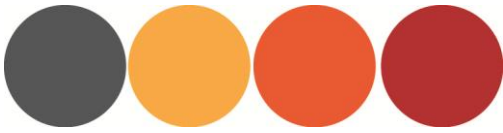
The sessions will provide you with the opportunity to:

- learn about self-evaluation
- connect directly with inspectors from the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland and take part in facilitated group discussions and activities
- share your experiences of self-evaluation and learn from other participants

The in-person workshops will be held on **Tuesday 27 May 2025** at the National Christian Outreach Centre, Riggs Road, Perth, PH1 1PR. The morning session will run from 10:00-12:30 and the afternoon session from 13:15-15:45. Both workshops will be covering the same content, which means you only need to register for one session.

[How early years practitioners care for and education babies and toddlers \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published a research report examining how early years practitioners care for and educate babies and toddlers up until they are two years old, drawing on a series of visits to early years settings, a survey, inspector focus groups and a literature review. The report highlights the importance of practitioner experience and qualifications, finding that those with greater experience and a higher level of qualifications had better knowledge of child development., and that communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development were well understood by practitioners, but they did not always understand how they could support physical development as well.



Equalities

[Our new Equalities Mainstreaming report has now been published](#)

Our new Equalities Mainstreaming report has now been published. It shows:

- our progress against our equality outcomes from April 2021 to March 2025 as first published in our Equality Outcomes, Mainstreaming Report, and Action Plan in April 2021
- new equality outcomes for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2029
- workforce equality information including our pay gap information (appendix 2)
- equal pay statement

[Project on support for children's sector and impact of UNCRC incorporation](#)

Together and Clan Childlaw are beginning a project to support the children's sector to use informal means to challenge decision making and establish a new collaborative model to use strategic litigation to address systemic UNCRC rights breaches in Scotland, as well as aiming to maximise the impact of incorporation of the UNCRC.

Justice

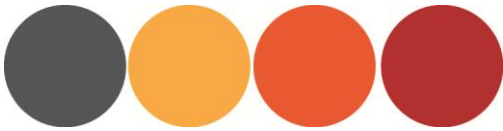
[Research on deaths in custody](#)

The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) has published 'Nothing to See Here? Deaths in Custody and their Investigation in Scotland in 2024', with research into the number of people who had died while in prison, in police custody, a mental health facility, immigration detention centre and in care settings for looked after children and young people. Reportedly, in total 244 people have died in Scotland while detained in custody or under the control of the state in 2024, and there has been a rise in deaths in prison which are now among the highest in Europe.

Workforce

[Survey on leavers from the social care and social work](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) 'Register Leavers Survey Report' gives an insight into leavers from the social work, social care and children and young people workforce, examining who is leaving the SSSC Register, why and where they are moving to. The survey reportedly shows that of the 2003 people who left the Register between August and December 2024, retirement, health and poor terms and conditions are the top reasons given for people leaving the Register.



[Resource for social care career information](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have launched a new Social Care Career Options Tool that will make it easier for people to find out about the wide range of roles and careers available in social care. The tool reportedly provides role descriptions and real-life career stories, as well as information on qualifications and career paths.

Other Health and Social Care

[Social Care Impact Awards recognising contributions](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has launched 'Social Care Impact Awards', to identify, recognise, and reward small organisations doing exceptional work in social care. The prizes include seventeen days of SCIE consultancy and training support to spaces on SCIE training courses, and the deadline for entries is 9am, Wednesday 28 May 2025.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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